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**PATENT**

**IN THE UNITED STATES PATENT AND TRADEMARK OFFICE**

Application No.: 09/821,789  
Filing Date: 3/29/2001  
Applicant: GOTO, et al.  
Title: METHOD AND APPARATUS FOR EXAMINING  
FOREIGN MATTERS IN THROUGH HOLES  
Attorney Docket: 9319S-000196

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Hon. Commissioner of Patents and Trademarks  
Washington, D.C. 20231

**PRELIMINARY AMENDMENT**

Sir:

Prior to the examination of this application, please amend it as follows:

**IN THE SPECIFICATION**

Please replace the following paragraphs of the specification. Applicant includes herewith an Attachment for Specification Amendments showing a marked up version of each replacement paragraph.

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21 [0006] The present invention focuses on the problems of the conventional art described above, and it is an object of the present invention to provide a method and an apparatus for examining foreign matters in through holes, which can quickly make determinations with low costs and high accuracy.

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